

REMARKS

This is a response to the non-final office action issued Jan. 31, 2006. Claims 16-23 are pending (the applicant is canceling claims 24-25).

Claim 16 was objected to for informalities. Claim 16 has been amended to remove these informalities. Claims 24-25 were rejected for double patenting. Claims 24-25 are canceled. Claim 16, 18-23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Avni in view of Kawabata et al. or Boot. Claim 17 was objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim.

The applicant has cancelled claim 17 and amended its limitations into claim 16 as suggested by the examiner. Since the examiner has suggested that claim 17 would have been allowable except for depending on a rejected base claim (claim 16), amended independent claim 16 should now be allowable. Since claims 18-23 now depend on newly amended claim 16, and simply add more limitations to it, they should also now be allowable.

For these reasons, the applicant feels the examiner will now find the remaining pending claims allowable. Therefore, the applicant respectfully requests the examiner

to place the case in condition for allowance at her
earliest convenience.

Respectfully Submitted

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